

U.S. Serial No. 10/765,108

500.43441X00

**REMARKS**

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 1-6 are pending.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 3-6. To expedite the allowance of these claims, Claims 3-4 have been rewritten in independent form, including the limitations of Claims 1 and 2, so that Claims 3-6 are now in allowable condition.

On Page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings as failing to label Figs. 1-7, 17-18, and 25-26 as Prior Art; and for minor informalities in Fig. 27. In reply, a Replacement Sheet correcting the informalities in Fig. 27 is enclosed. However, the Applicants have not labeled the other noted figures as Prior Art because, in addition to showing some conventional features, the noted figures illustrate the written analysis of certain problems in the prior art which are overcome by the present invention. Accordingly, Figs. 1-7, 17-18 and 25-26 do not show "only that which is old", but also illustrate analysis that is properly considered part of the present invention.

A new title has been provided as required by the Examiner. Further, the disclosure and claims have been amended to address the informalities noted on Pages 3-5 of the Office Action.

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Larabell et al., U.S. 5,471,099 (Larabell). The Applicants traverse as follows.

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Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to clarify an important feature of the present invention, whereby a casing for a storage apparatus comprises first and second receiving portions (Claim 1) and a third receiving portion (Claim 2) that provide flexibility to accommodate storage apparatuses of various scale. In particular, the claimed first receiving portion is now recited as being "sized to receive a disc drive box", the second receiving portion "sized to alternatively receive either of a disc drive box or a control portion box", and the third receiving portion is "sized to receive a power source portion". Concerning Claim 1, the Applicants have claimed a casing for a storage apparatus which itself is a patentable item because the casing can accommodate, in the first receiving portion, a disc drive box, and in the second receiving portion, either a disc drive box or a control portion box depending upon whether the user requires added disc drive capacity in the casing or both disc drive and control capacity in the casing. In other words, rather than requiring two different casings depending upon the current need, the inventive casing provides the versatility to mount a disc drive box or a control portion box as needed. Concerning Claim 2, the casing includes the third receiving portion for receiving a power source portion, regardless of whether the second receiving portion is to store a disc drive box or a control portion box.

Larabell discloses a variety of casings for different needs, and in turn highlights the prior art problem that multiple different casings are required for such different needs. Thus, for each independent need satisfied by a different

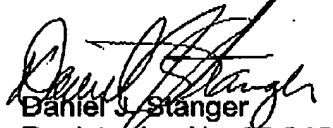
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casing according to Larabell, the present invention satisfies the need with the single casing in each instance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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